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when do they emerge from their host, and do they interfere with its vital functions before the eggs are deposited? The beetle was one of a large colony of lively specimens captured beneath the ruined walls of an Arab hovel at Ismailia on the Suez canal. The specimens have been sent to the editors of the AMERICAN NATURALIST.—SAMUEL H. SCUDDER.

[It is well known in Europe that several species of Conops, a wasp-like dipterous fly, live in the larva state in the abdomens of adult humble bees. We have reared a species also from the abdomen either of *Bombus vagans* or *B. fervidus*.—EDS.]

MADNESS IN A HORSE.—In the “Zeitschrift für Parasitenkunde” published in Berlin, a remarkable instance is recorded of madness in a horse, caused presumably by the bite of a mad dog. The horse was brought to the hospital of the Royal Veterinary School at Berlin, having refused its food for two days, and exhibited extraordinary wildness and propensity to bite, not only other horses and inanimate objects, but also its own body, and had already by this means broken several of its teeth, and inflicted severe injuries on its mouth. When confined in a stall in the hospital, it continued to exhibit this propensity to a terrible extent, but in a fitful manner; in the intervals of the paroxysms it stood in a bewildered state, and would sometimes suddenly fall as if struck by lightning, then give a violent bite to one of its hind feet, then as suddenly spring up, staggering. The loss of blood caused it to become gradually weaker, and in the evening of the day on which it was admitted, it expired without any death-struggle. Except the outward injuries, and some interior swelling and inflammation, the organs were found to be sound after death.—A. W. B.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

WHERE ARE THE BONES OF PREHISTORIC MEN?—In answer to this inquiry, M. W. Pengelly states in the “Quarterly Journal of Science” that their bones may be more subject to decay than the bones of other animals, citing the experiments of Dr. Lindley who “placed in water, in a tank, one hundred and seventy-seven specimens of various plants belonging to all the more remarkable natural orders, including representatives of all those which are constantly present in the coal measures, and also those which are

universally absent. The uncovered vessel was exposed to the air and left untouched further than filling it up as the water evaporated, until April, 1835, or a period of two years. At the end of that time it was found that certain kinds had entirely disappeared, others had left some more or less recognizable traces; whilst others, especially fungi, ferns and coniferous trees were comparatively well preserved. In short, the plants remaining and the plants which had disappeared were respectively of the same groups as those which are not present amongst the coal fossils." He also remarks that it is well known that oyster and limpet shells are more frequently found fossil than cockles, and it was found by Mr. Sorby that the carbonate of lime in the shells of limpets, oysters and other molluscs, were turned into calcite, while cockles and their allies were changed into arragonite, the latter being liable to disappear. He also says that after the conversion of the Lake of Haarlem into dry land, when thirty to forty thousand men had been buried in its land, or drowned in its waters, and thousands of miles of trenches and canals were dug through this made land, no human bones had been found, and only a few relics of human art. As direct evidence that the bones of man have been found mingled with those of extinct animals, he cites the following facts:—In 1824 Rev. Dr. Fleming stated that "man was an inhabitant of this country at the time these animals, now extinct, flourished, his bones and his instruments having been found in similar situations with their remains." M. Wrey, F. G. S., in 1831, discovered "an undoubted human skull, very perfect and in good preservation" in the floor of a cave, mingled with the bones of "extinct and recent animals." In 1833-'4, Dr. Schmerling of Liège, in a cave in the valley of the Meuse, discovered certain deposits which "were covered with a floor of unbroken stalagmite, and contained the commingled remains of extinct and recent animals, including man," among which were several skulls, including the celebrated Engis skull. In 1840, Mr. Godwin Austin remarked that the bones of man occurred in Kent's Cavern, Torquay, "under precisely the same conditions as the bones of all the other animals." In 1841 he added, "at Kent's Hole, near Torquay, arrows and knives of flint, with human bones, in the same condition as the elephant and other bones, were found in an undisturbed bed of clay, covered by nine feet of stalagmite."

"The late Col. Hamilton Smith devoted a section of his "Natu-

ral History of the Human Species" (1848), to the question of "Bones of Man among Organic Remains" of which the following is a brief summary:—In a conversation with the author in 1824, Cuvier admitted that the opinions then in vogue on the point would require considerable modification. Donati, Germer, Rasoumowski, and Guetard, maintained that human bones had been found intermixed with those of lost species of mammals in several places; they had been detected in England in caves and fissures; they were found at Meissen in Saxony, and at Darford in France, by M. Firmsas. A fossilized skeleton found in the schist at Quebec, and in part preserved at the seminary, excited no attention; and the well known Guadeloupe skeletons had been pronounced recent upon hypothetical reasoning. Those discovered by M. Schmerling in the Liège caverns were similarly disposed of, and Dr. Lund's reports respecting partially petrified human bones, found by him in the interior of Brazil, in the same condition with those of numerous animals, now extinct, which accompanied them, attracted no more than incredulous attention. In the caverns of Bize, in France, human bones and shreds of pottery were found in red clay mixed with the debris of extinct mammalia; a similar collocation was soon after detected by M. de Serres, in the caverns of Pondres and Souvignargues; and Dr. Boué found human bones mixed with others of extinct species at Lahr. In 1833, human bones were found together with several species of the well known extinct cave mammals, in caves near Liège, beneath a thick coat of stalagmite; and about the same period, the Rev. Mr. MacEmery collected from the caves of Torquay, human bones and flint knives, amongst a great variety of extinct species, all under a crust of stalagmite upon which the head of a wolf reposed. Amongst the bones of the mammoth and his contemporaries, found at Oreston, near Plymouth, at different times before and after that period, the upper portion of the humerus of a man was detected, and immediately thrown away as valueless on being pointed out to the possessor. About the end of the last century, gypsum quarries were opened in the Vale of Kostniz, in Upper Saxony. The gypsum was intersected in every direction by caves and fissures, which were filled with red clay containing clusters of bones of mammalia, including man, elephant, rhinoceros, horse, ox, elk, deer, reindeer, a great felis, hyæna, hare, and rabbit. A fragment of an arm and a thigh-bone of a man were dug out of the clay at a

depth of eighteen feet ; and eight feet below, two phalanges of a rhinoceros."

Other discoveries, made since 1860, and well known to our readers, are alluded to. The writer might have added the case, now apparently well authenticated, of the human skull found by Professor Whitney, under Table Mountain, California, associated with remains of the mastodon.

FRESH DISCOVERIES OF PLATYCNEMIC MEN IN DENBIGHSHIRE.—Mr. W. Boyd Dawkins records in "Nature" the opening of some freshly discovered bone-caves in Denbighshire, Wales, in which were discovered the remains of men with the skulls rather above than below the present ordinary cranial capacity, but with some of the leg-bones remarkable for the peculiar antero-posterior flattening or platycnemism of the shin bones. They are associated with the remains of sheep or goat, pig, fox, badger and stag, and with four flint flakes. The interest of the discovery consists in the fact that the group of caves, which has been used by a race of herdsmen in long-forgotten times as habitations and burial places, must be referred to the Neolithic age. And we can now be certain that those people who have manifested the peculiar flattening forwards of the shin in Denbighshire belong to that age. It is a point also well worthy of note that the cranial capacity of these Neolithic men was not inferior to that of the average civilized man, although the ridges and processes for muscles indicated a greater physical power.—A. W. B.

GEOLOGY.

GEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO KANSAS.—I write to give a brief account of the expedition of seventeen days which I have just made in the valley of the Smoky Hill river in Kansas. Through the courtesy of General John Pope commanding the department of the Missouri, I was furnished with an order on the post commandant at Fort Wallace for a suitable escort. This was furnished by Captain E. Butler (Fifth infantry), who spared no pains to make the expedition a success.

We first camped at a spring eighteen miles south of Fort Wallace, and five miles south of Butte Creek. It had a fine flow of water, and being without a name I called it Fossil Spring. On a bluff on Butte Creek, Lieutenant Whitten discovered the frag-